(iii) Census of minor irrigation schemes,

(iv) Command Area Development Programme,

(v) Encouraging irrigation through the use of sprinklers/drip systems, hydrams, water turbines, man or animal operated pumpsets, and

(vi) Scheme for rectification of diesel pump sets.

Facilities under the above schemes are available to all States. Assam is at present availing facilities under the Schemes at (i) to (iv).

Ground Water Irrigation Schemes in Assam

1500. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Assam has tremendous ground water potential and the proper exploitation of this potential may bring about dynamic change in the agricultural scenario of the State; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to examine the prospect of ground water irrigation scheme in Assam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) Yes, Sir. The utilisable ground water resources for irrigation in Assam is estimated to be of the order of 1.99 m. ha.m./yr. The Brahmaputra valley in Assam is underlain by regionally extensive fresh water aquifers capable of providing ground water supplies through suitably designed tubewells to command 50 hectares of irrigated agriculture per tubewells.

(b) Minor Irrigation schemes, including ground water schemes, are planned, funded and executed by the State Government themselves from their own budgetary resources. Under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes for North Eastern States, the Central Government provides a 50 per cent matching Central assistance for purchase of machinery and equipment and expenditure on staff for strengthening of the State Ground Water/ Minor Irrigation Organisations. Under this scheme, Central assistance of Rs. 120.027 lakh has been released to the Government of Assam during the first three years of the 7th Five Year Plan.

1501. *[Transferred to the 12th May, 1988]*

Discussion on making Darjeeling a Centrally-Administered Territory

1502. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there was a discussion in the Home Ministry on Darjeeling for making the Darjeeling areas a Centrally-administered territory in view of the ever-increasing turmoil and tension coupled with the gap in understanding between the West Bengal Government and the Gorkha insurgents; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Leakage of ammonia gas from BCGC plant at Chembur, Bombay

1503. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the leakage of ammonia gas from a Bombay carbon-di-oxide corporaion (BCGC) plant at Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilisers premises at Chembur sometime in mid March 1988 affecting a large number of persons; and

(b) if so, what is the outcome of the inquiry, if any, made by the Government into the incident of gas leakage and what action has been taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Maharashtra Government ordered an enquiry into the gas leakage and based on it the measures taken by the State Government include:

(i) Registering a case against the Plant Operator, Works Manager and Supervisor of the Company under Section 336 and 114 of the Indian Penal Code;

(ii) Directing the Company not to recommission the plant unless inspected and certified safe by the State pollution Control Board and the Factory Inspectorate Maharashtra; and

(iii) Issuing a Show Cause Notice to the unit for not applying for Consent under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981.

1504. [*Transferred to the 13th May, 1988*].

Complaints from small scale users of polyester and nylon filament yarn

1505. SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to report published in the Indian Express, Bombay of March 24, 1988 about complaints by small scale users of Polyester and Nylon Filament Yarn regarding misuse of concessions granted to synthetic manufacturers and if so, what was the outcome thereof; and

(b) what were the rates of Polyester Filament Yarn and Nylon Filament Yarn and cloth of standard specifications in the last week of November and December, 1987 on 15th January, 1988 and on 15th March, 1988 in Bombay market and whether the benefits were passed on to the consumers as assured by Government?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) Yes, Sir. It has been re-emphasised to the Industry that benefits of duty reduction have to be passed on down the line.